

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

April 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Seven of Bay Area Counties Register a Decline in Unadjusted Unemployment Rate for March

Employment levels picked up slightly during March, lowering unemployment rates in several of the area's counties. Combined with the employment increases, several counties had decreases in the number of workers in their labor force, which also tended to drop the unemployment rate in the region. March and April are normally transition months, when both employment and labor force number begin to grow. The weather has an impact as to which month begins to show improvement. While there was some growth in the employment situation during March, the level was somewhat below par for the month.

Two of the area's ten counties had increases in the rate for the month, these were Florence up 0.2 of a percentage point to 10.8 percent and Menominee County, up 0.6 of a percentage point to 12.3 percent. Three of the counties had rates over ten percent. They were Florence, Menominee and Oconto.

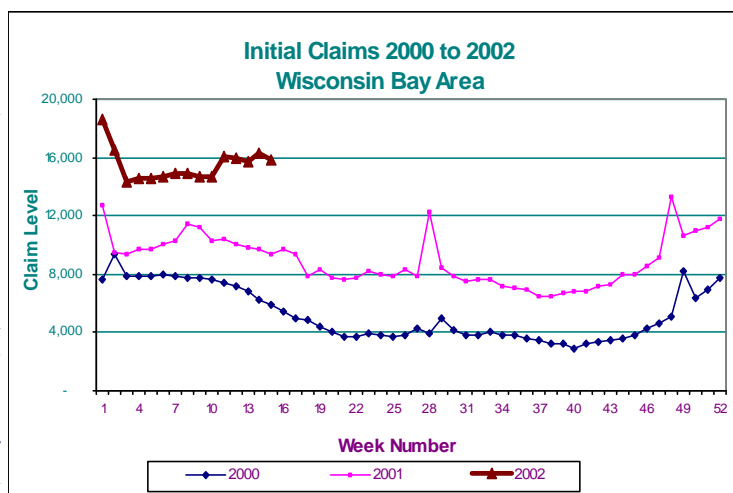
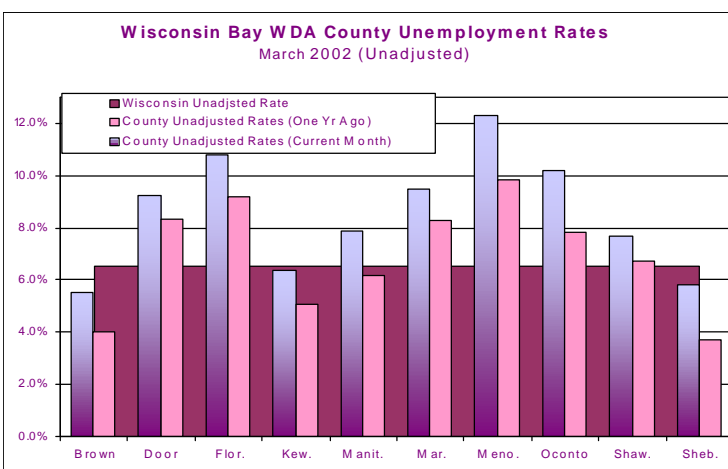
The next several months should show more growth in both labor force and employment levels, if seasonal patterns follow suit. It is expected that while the economy has begun to improve, local unemployment rates will most likely decline, but remain at or near year ago levels.

The unemployment rate for the Bay Area for the month of March declined 0.4 of a percentage point to 6.8 percent. The decline in the rate is mainly the result of seasonal patterns with the rate at 1.6 of a percentage point above one year ago. Unemployment in the area remained above Wisconsin's unadjusted rate of 6.8 percent. Wisconsin's unadjusted rate was down 0.2 of a percentage point during the month and was 1.6 of a percentage point above last year. Seven of the area's counties had rates above the State of Wisconsin's unadjusted rate.

The number of unemployed in the Bay Area was down 1,500 from February. Not all of the improvement was the result of increased employment, part of the drop was a decline in the number of workers in the labor force. Employment was up by 400 over the month, while the size of the labor force declined by 1,100 to 343,100. The number employed was 319,800.

The number employed has remained above one year ago levels throughout most of the down turn in the economy. Employment is up 5,700 from last year. Employment growth during the last year has not kept up with the expansion in the number of workers that have entered the labor force during the same time period. Since last March the region's labor force has increased by 12,000, more than double the number of workers find employment during that time. Menominee remains the only county in the Bay Area with a decrease in total employment over the year with a loss of 100.

Normally the first three to four months of the year have the highest level of continuing claims for unemployment insurance. This year has been no exception, other than the curve normally begins to decline during early March reaching a low point during late June, with a small spike in July for plant closings. This year, not only have continuing claims remained above previous year's levels, but have not begun the normal decline. The spike in claims during 2002 coincides with the implementation of extended benefits for workers. It looks as though the number of continuing claims was beginning to drop slightly prior to the implementation of extended benefits.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted rate dropped in both the Green Bay MSA and the Sheboygan MSA's during March. The rate in the Green Bay MSA was down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

The rate in the Sheboygan MSA also declined 0.1 of a percent-

age point to 5.3 The nation's unemployment rate rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent, while the rate for the State of Wisconsin was down 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
March 2002	Brown	Door	Flornc.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	143,000	15,100	1,800	10,700	46,600	22,500	2,300	17,600	20,200	63,300	343,100	3,049,800
Employed	135,000	13,700	1,600	10,100	42,900	20,400	2,000	15,800	18,700	59,600	319,800	2,851,100
Unemployed	7,900	1,400	200	700	3,700	2,100	300	1,800	1,600	3,700	23,400	198,700
Unemployment rate(%)	5.5%	9.2%	10.8%	6.4%	7.9%	9.5%	12.3%	10.2%	7.7%	5.8%	6.8%	6.5%
Total, all industries**	146,400	12,200	1,200	6,700	37,900	19,900	2,000	10,100	12,200	60,700	309,300	2,774,400
Construction & Mining	8,400	900	0	500	1,300	400	0	400	500	2,200	14,600	108,900
Manufacturing	27,700	2,500	300	2,100	13,700	6,500	0	3,300	2,400	24,300	82,700	563,200
Transportation & Public Util.	10,800	200	0	400	2,200	1,000	0	400	500	1,700	17,300	130,000
Wholesale Trade	7,700	200	0	200	1,000	600	0	100	400	1,900	12,100	135,700
Retail Trade	25,800	2,600	300	1,000	5,900	3,400	100	1,700	2,400	8,900	52,200	490,100
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,700	700	0	300	1,000	600	0	200	400	2,000	15,900	151,300
Services	37,200	3,300	200	1,200	8,300	5,100	0	1,900	2,700	12,800	72,700	770,300
Government	18,000	1,700	300	1,100	4,500	2,400	1,800	2,100	2,900	6,800	41,800	424,800
Change from previous month												
Civilian Labor Force*	-400	100	100	0	-500	0	0	0	0	-500	-1,100	-1,700
Employed	100	100	0	100	100	0	0	200	100	-300	400	4,300
Unemployed	-400	0	0	-100	-600	0	0	-100	-100	-300	-1,500	-5,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.7%	-1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Total, all industries**	700	100	0	100	200	200	0	100	100	0	1,600	14,600
Construction & Mining	400	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	700	4,200
Manufacturing	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-500	-400	-1,500
Transportation & Public Util.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	700
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	300
Retail Trade	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	400	4,100
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Services	-300	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	200	300	3,500
Government	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	400	2,700
Change from year ago												
Civilian Labor Force*	5,600	600	100	300	2,000	1,100	0	1,200	400	400	12,000	89,000
Employed	3,200	400	100	100	1,100	700	-100	700	100	400	5,700	45,900
Unemployed	2,400	200	0	200	900	400	100	500	200	100	6,200	43,100
Unemployment rate(%)	1.5%	0.9%	1.6%	1.3%	1.7%	1.2%	2.4%	2.4%	1.0%	2.1%	1.6%	1.3%
Total, all industries**	1,200	100	100	-100	200	400	-100	200	-200	-1,700	0	-16,500
Construction & Mining	1,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300	900	-2,400
Manufacturing	-1,300	-100	0	-100	0	0	0	-100	0	-1,600	-3,200	-30,800
Transportation & Public Util.	400	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	600	-2,500
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300
Retail Trade	600	0	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	900	2,700
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-300	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-100	2,500
Services	-100	100	0	0	0	300	0	100	-100	-100	100	10,400
Government	500	100	0	-100	-100	100	-100	200	0	200	800	3,900
* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2001												

Going to be needing Summer Workers? Contact your local Job Center and list your openings on JobNet and the Internet. This free service has a special Seasonal/Summer category to help you find the right person. Call our local office or enter your job listing on the internet at: <https://dws.dwd.state.wi.us/dwewjos/employer>.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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